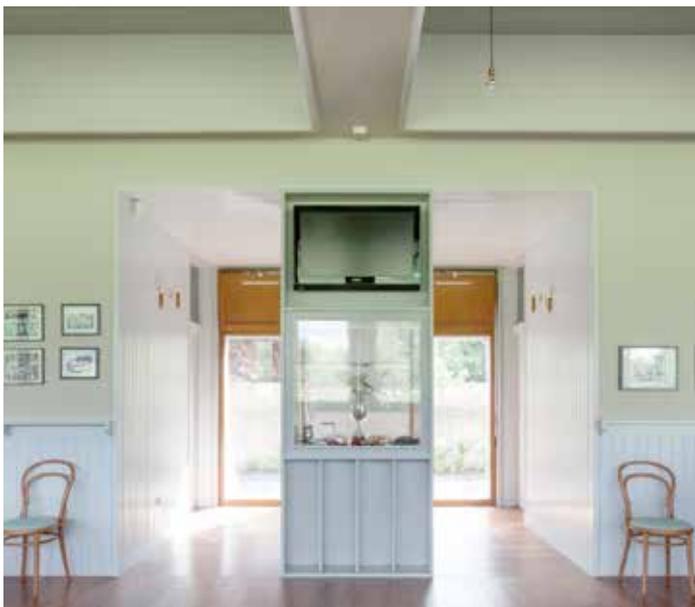


MERRION CRICKET CLUB, DUBLIN

TAKA Architects has ensured the members of this flood-hit cricket club face many more innings thanks to the waterproofing armoury of their club house's latest incarnation. By Hugh Strange



All photos: Alice Clancy



Inside the club house, the 12mm x 100mm timber wainscoting that covers the insulation layer is painted blue-grey in contrast to the wall colour

Project Merrion Cricket Club
Architect TAKA Architects
Location Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland
Completion June 2014

Founded in 1879 and located in the Ballsbridge area to the south of Dublin since 1906, Merrion Cricket Club is sited behind a series of traditional brick suburban houses and looks out towards the River Dodder.

Following severe damage caused by flooding to the club's previous pavilion, Irish practice TAKA has designed a replacement home for the club.

The building's accommodation is housed within a linear plan that addresses the cricket pitch, and is cranked to fit within the irregular geometry of the site.

The main building is entered at the short end, beneath a covered portico, and houses the bar, tearoom, kitchen and WC's. Located in the

smaller leg are the home and away changing rooms and showers, as well as an office and physiotherapy room.

At first-floor level, nestled within the apex of the roof is an apartment for a club professional, entered via a discrete stair to the rear of the building.

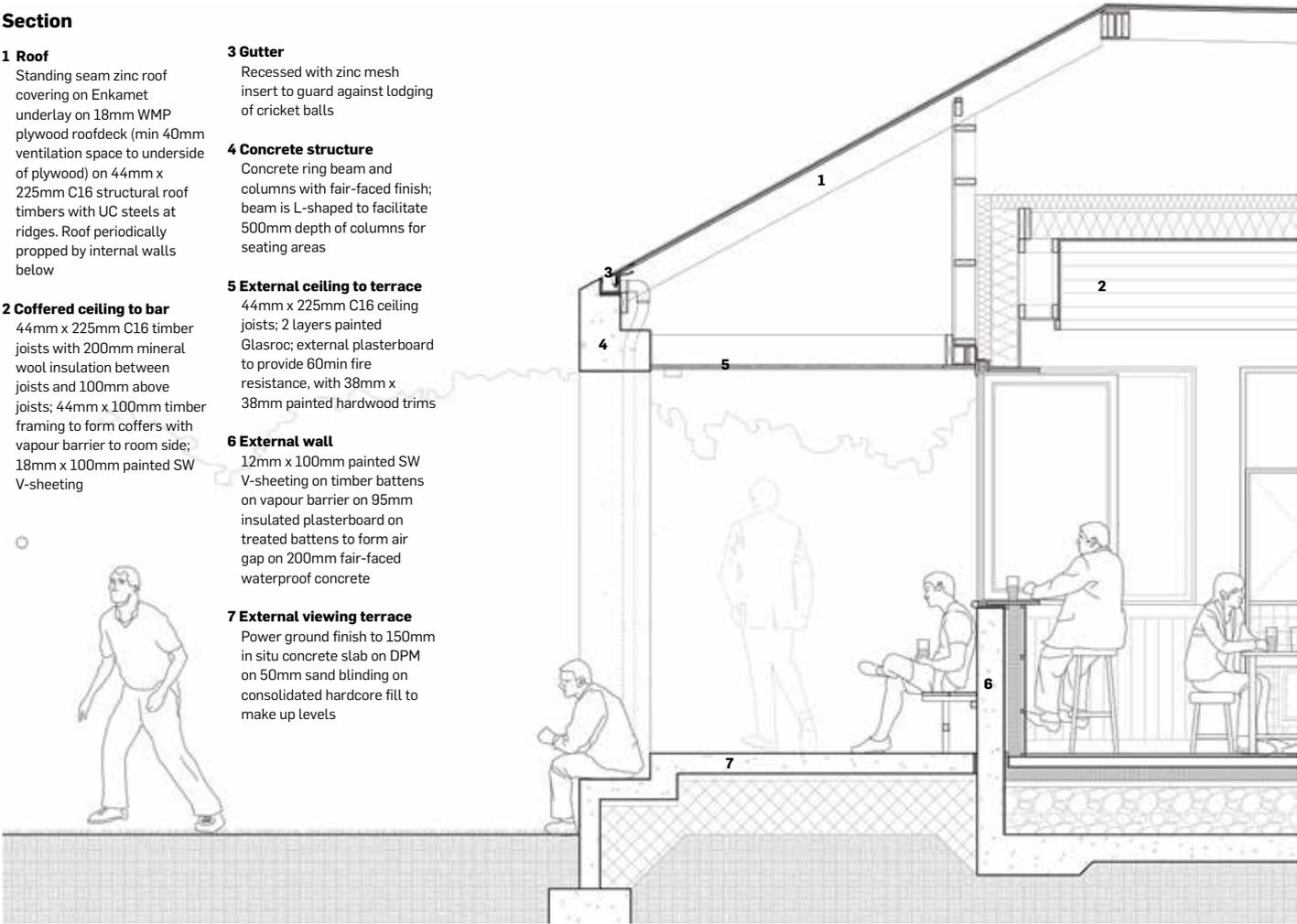
The low-lying site has suffered four recorded floods since 1900, the most recent of which was in 2010, when the 1980s built pavilion was damaged. As a result of this, it was decided that the new, replacement structure should adopt protection measures up to 1,700mm above ground level – 200mm higher than the 2010 flood level.

To maintain visibility from the inside and to prevent the building from feeling bunker-like, the building was raised 600mm. The resulting cill level of 1,100mm allows bar perching views through large timber sliding and folding windows to the matches beyond.

A total of 200mm thick waterproof concrete walls and slab provide a

Section

- 1 Roof**
Standing seam zinc roof covering on Enkamet underlay on 18mm WMP plywood roofdeck (min 40mm ventilation space to underside of plywood) on 44mm x 225mm C16 structural roof timbers with UC steels at ridges. Roof periodically propped by internal walls below
- 2 Cofferred ceiling to bar**
44mm x 225mm C16 timber joists with 200mm mineral wool insulation between joists and 100mm above joists; 44mm x 100mm timber framing to form coffered ceiling with vapour barrier to room side; 18mm x 100mm painted SW V-sheeting
- 3 Gutter**
Recessed with zinc mesh insert to guard against lodging of cricket balls
- 4 Concrete structure**
Concrete ring beam and columns with fair-faced finish; beam is L-shaped to facilitate 500mm depth of columns for seating areas
- 5 External ceiling to terrace**
44mm x 225mm C16 ceiling joists; 2 layers painted Glasroc; external plasterboard to provide 60min fire resistance, with 38mm x 38mm painted hardwood trims
- 6 External wall**
12mm x 100mm painted SW V-sheeting on timber battens on vapour barrier on 95mm insulated plasterboard on treated battens to form air gap on 200mm fair-faced waterproof concrete
- 7 External viewing terrace**
Power ground finish to 150mm in situ concrete slab on DPM on 50mm sand blinding on consolidated hardcore fill to make up levels



continuous protective container to this level, with drop-in flood barriers installed wherever door openings breach the construction.

Insulation and linings are applied on the inside of the concrete, providing an internal datum that makes the line of protection legible throughout the pavilion's interiors.

In the bar and tearoom this is read as the 12mm x 100mm timber wainscoting, painted blue-grey in contrast to the various wall colours, and in the changing rooms the same level is understood by the height of the ceramic tiling.

Externally, this datum is seen in the change from concrete base to either brick walling or timber framed glazing above.

To counteract the impression of a closed structure that might have resulted from the building's demanding waterproofing requirements, a colonnade of concrete columns forms a covered external terrace between the club house and pitch.



The cranked plan form and stepped section of terrace are all sheltered beneath a large pitched roof

Right: The building has been floodproofed to 1.7m, partially achieved by raising the building 600mm, which has created a stepped area for spectators

Below: The 1,100mm-high flood-resistant area is the perfect height for sitting on a bar stool at the bar window – and doubles up as a home for internal wall insulation



» As well as providing an open, generously scaled façade to the pitch, the move creates, through steps in section, a variety of protected viewing opportunities that layer the space. Seat-height steps are integrated into the 600mm level change on the line of the outer columns, while at a line of sight above, a series of green-painted timber benches are set to the rear of the terrace. Above these the internal windows open to provide stool-level views.

The multiplicity of the various programmatic elements, the cranked plan form and the gently stepped section of the terrace are all sheltered beneath a large pitched roof that, in contrast, communicates the singularity of a pavilion structure.

This unifying gesture is enhanced by a series of flush details between the external surfaces that suggest a taut, precisely formed volume.

Above the waterproof concrete



base, composite brick and block walls have been constructed with insulation to the internal face.

Cast directly onto the stepped tops of these walls is a continuous concrete ring beam, with a minimum dimension of 300 x 600mm, sloping to accommodate the building's distorted form. The ring beam is overcast on the inner face with an inwardly sloping top face that has been ground smooth.

These details allow a recessed gutter to the inside of the beam, connecting through with downpipes that are either internally concealed or cast within the verticals of the colonnade.

Zinc mesh inserts within the gutters prevent loose cricket balls from lodging and blocking the system.

The standing seam zinc roof, despite its skewed appearance is in fact an off-centre, symmetrical pyramid, cut to accommodate the irregularities of the plan form. The zinc is laid with underlay on an 18mm plywood deck. Standard 44 x 225mm timber joists similar to those used in domestic construction provide an economical solution to the roof structure, with longer spans propped by internal walls.

In a statement about its design intentions and the constraints it faced, TAKA says: "The design embraces the project's modest budget and flood prevention requirements but, although legible, we didn't want these to overwhelm the experience of the finished building for a club member.

"Instead we aimed to create, as with the bar window cills, a coherent and generous object that offers moments in which these aspects are both present and invisible."

PROJECT TEAM

Architects

TAKA Architects

Clients

Merrion Cricket Club

Structural engineer

Casey O'Rourke Associates

Services engineer **Engineering**

Environments

Quantity surveyor **Austin Reddy and**

Company

Main contractor

M&P Construction

Ground floor plan

- 1 External entrance portico
- 2 Snug
- 3 Accessible WC
- 4 Men's WC
- 5 Women's WC
- 6 Kitchen
- 7 Bar store
- 8 Main bar
- 9 Servery
- 10 Tea room
- 11 Office/physio
- 12 Home changing room
- 13 Locker room
- 14 WCs
- 15 Home showers
- 16 Away showers
- 17 Away changing room
- 18 Umpire's changing room
- 19 Viewing terrace
- 20 Pitch
- 21 Car park

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